



The E-Gobrecht

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

2019 Volume 15, Issue 12

December 2019 (Whole #179)

A New Beginning for the E-G



This is my last issue as the *E-Gobrecht* Editor-Publisher. Long time club member Paul Kluth will assume the Editing-Publishing of the *E-Gobrecht* beginning with the next issue. After 15 full years and 179 monthly issues, it is time to turn over this responsibility to new energy and fresh ideas.

I wish to thank Paul for taking on this duty. Paul is new to retirement from his careers and now has time to continue supporting the Liberty Seated Collectors Club in different ways. Besides authoring numerous articles for the club publications, Paul routinely helps the club to liaison with local clubs and assists at manning club tables at shows. He will now have the *E-Gobrecht* also.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to publish the *E-Gobrecht* since January 2005 after club member Michael Fey approached John McCloskey and I with this idea at the Fall 2004 Baltimore show. With no club email address listing and no authors, I took on this challenge. With a slow start, it is now a nationally recognized award winning publication. This is due to the huge support I received over the years and I sincerely want to thank the club membership. Numerous individuals, far too many to specifically mention, all helped me make the *E-Gobrecht* a success. Most notably and recently, this newsletter would not have been worthwhile without the columnists, Len Augsburger, Craig Eberhart, Dennis Fortier, and Greg Johnson. John Frost always provided great support and I am truly thankful to all these individuals and to many others. I know Paul will continue and surpass this success.

Lastly, I know you, the LSCC members, will continue to support Paul in future issues. Without submissions, the newsletter is not newsworthy.

I will continue to be the *Gobrecht Journal* Editor-Publisher.

Bill Bugert, E-Gobrecht Editor (for this last issue)

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Stories from the Club Table

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

I went to the Manchester NH show with low expectations of finding anything to add to my collection. You see I'd been scouring the internet for the right dates in the right grades without any luck. Just as we arrived for dealer setup I ran into a dealer I knew from our time in Rochester N.Y. He had not been to Manchester in several years. I came to his table after we'd setup the club table and before the public got in. We chatted and I mentioned I was trying to finish off my "S" mint half dollar set. I told him I only needed six coins to complete the set. He replied that he had just sold an 1867-S to another dealer. That was one of the six dates I still needed. I questioned him about the coin, he told me it was a PCGS45+. Just my grade range, I replied. The dealer he sold it to was going to pick it up at this (Manchester) show. I said in surprise "you still have it?" Yes, he had the coin, so I asked to see it.

It was just the kind of coin that would fit right into my collection. I asked who the dealer was he'd sold it to. As it turned out I knew the dealer well. Later at the show I saw the dealer and asked him to stop by the club table as I was interested in the 1867-S if he didn't have a customer for it already.

He came by and handed me the coin and quoted a price that was fair. I bought it on the spot. One more coin closer to completing the set, one more coin that I needed to be in the right place at the right time to scoop up. The coin never made it to that dealer's website for other Liberty Seated specialist to jump at. Once again working for the club paid its benefit in helping me to come closer to my goal.

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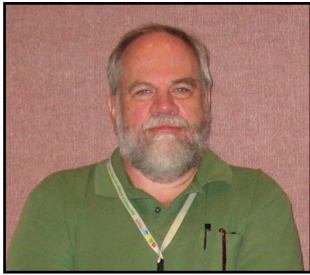
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Seated Shorts

From Dan Rathert. Another excellent *E-Gobrecht* (November 2019 issue). I particularly enjoyed Greg Johnson's article comparing Liberty Seated coins and Washington quarters. I think I need to add one of the rarer Washington quarters to my type collection.

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Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

The Collector's Auction by Scotsman, November 8, St. Louis. Only a few Liberty Seated coins were included in this auction, but the sale did include the finest graded 1841-O baseball die crack (WB-2) half dollar (<https://www.scoins.com/lot.aspx?a=19&l=697>). This coin was graded MS63+ by PCGS and sold for \$13,800. I have collected this date by die marriage for many years and thought the finest was an NGC MS63 example that was sold in the September 2011 Long Beach auction (subsequently crossed to a PCGS MS62 holder). A side-by-side comparison of these two coins could prove interesting.

The November Baltimore Auction by Stack's Bowers Galleries - November 13-20. The Liberty Seated coins in this auction were dominated by the E. Horatio Morgan half dollar collection, that was complete by date and mintmark except for the very rare, or non-collectible, 1853-O no arrows half dollar. The collection included an example of the controversial specimen (or proof) 1861-O State of Louisiana issue. The rarest collectible Liberty Seated half dollar date, the 1878-S, was represented by an example from the legendary Norweb collection. A selection of half dollars from this collection, including some moderately priced issues, are listed below.

1840 (O)	PCGS CAC	XF45	\$2,400.	WB-4, medium letters
1841	PCGS	AU55	\$408.	WB-2
1841-O	PCGS	MS61 PL	\$3,120.	WB-11, prooflike
1842-O	PCGS	VG8	\$1,020.	WB-2, small date and letters
1845	PCGS CAC	XF45	\$660.	WB-3
1846	PCGS	VF30	\$1,140.	WB-7, 6 over horizontal 6
1848	PCGS CAC	AU53	\$840.	WB-13
1850-O	PCGS	AU58	\$1,320.	WB-12
1851	PCGS	AU55	\$2,280.	WB-5
1855-S	PCGS	XF45	\$3,600.	WB-4
1856-S	PCGS	XF40	\$1,200.	WB-2
1857-O	PCGS	AU50	\$336.	WB-4
1859-S	PCGS	EF45	\$528.	WB-3
1861-O	NGC	SP62	\$66,000.	W-04, R-7 as a proof
1867-S	PCGS CAC	AU58+	\$1,260.	WB-10
1873	PCGS	VF20	\$3,360.	WB-101, open 3, no arrows
1878-CC	PCGS	VG8	\$1,560.	WB-1
1878-S	PCGS	AU53	\$50,400.	WB-1



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COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM - This legislation, H.R. 3757, "1921 Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin Act" will require the United States Mint to produce two U.S. Silver Dollars (Morgan and Peace Dollars) dated 2021.

COIN DESIGNS - These two silver dollars will be minted from the original design work of George T. Morgan and Anthony de Francisci. The only change will be the date to 2021.

METAL CONTENT - The coins will be not less than 90% silver.

COIN SIZES - They will be as the original sized silver dollars in uncirculated and proof finishes.

COST - The pricing has yet to be determined. **40% of the surcharges will go back to numismatics** through the American Numismatic Association as directed by law. Since the restart of the Mint's commemorative coin program in 1982 coin surcharges have supported many worthy causes and projects. This will be the first time that the surcharge funds will be used to support numismatics.



<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>



Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

A LDS 1844, Briggs 1-A



1844 Late Die State Briggs 1-A Liberty Seated Quarter Dollar
Left—Figure 1 (Reverse), Right—Figure 2 (Reverse shield lines)

Some of the most interesting and most underrated Liberty Seated quarters were produced in the 1840s. Even the highest mintage and most common of these early issues are quite scarce in Almost Uncirculated and Mint State grades; as well as in problem free XF/AU. Many also have interesting features resulting from the dies being hand made and then frequently run to destruction. This month's quarter is an 1844, Briggs 1-A in a late die state, but with a very strong "hammered" strike.

One of the nice things about authoring this column each month is that I get to see neat coins that belong to other collectors. Recently, LSCC member and quarter collector Joe Hacker shared some high-resolution photos of some of his quarters, including the 1844 subject of this column. The coin pictured is die marriage 1-A per Briggs' *Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*. Those who have

used Briggs' book extensively will note that the 1-A die marriage for each issue tends to be the most common of the die marriages, and that appears to be the case here. The pictured coin (Figure 1) is, however, not at all common in a high AU (58) grade, in a late die state, and with an exceptional strike.

The 1844 Briggs 1-A features a subtle doubling of the date. But the really interesting things are happening on the terminal die state reverse. First, the manner in which the reverse shield lines were cut results in a kind of "cross hatching" in the horizontal lines at the top of the shield (Figure 2). Briggs' frequently uses the pattern created by these lines to attribute quarters from the 1840s. It is an effective technique if the coins are struck well enough and in a high state of preservation, but can be problematic otherwise. Second, there are heavy die cracks around the

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entire reverse, most notably under QUAR DOL and the arrowheads (Figure 3). Finally, a retained cud forms above “TATES OF” as shown in Figure 4.

Look closely at those early dates. Even if they appear to be common issues in common condition. There are some really neat coins hiding among the “stuff.”



Figure 3 (above)—Heavy die cracks on LDS 1844 Briggs 1-A.



Figure 4 (above)—Retained cud above “TATES OF” on LDS 1844 Briggs 1-A.

LSCC Calendar

December 15, 2019. **LSCC table and educational program.** Mount Kisco, NY. Coin and Collectibles Fair, Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco, NY. Dennis Fortier and John Frost will staff the club table on the bourse floor. There will be an educational program at 11:30 in Cisqua West.

All dates: see the LSCC website (www.lscweb.org) for additional events and details.



Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

Escape to New York!

Baltimore wrap up. Baltimore was a beehive of activity with coins, dinners, auctions, certifications, and toss in an unusual offering from the U.S. Mint. Time management is paramount with so many friends to see, business to transact, and acquisition decisions to make. This recently concluded edition of the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo was no different.

Dealers seemed well pleased with sales overall. The Mint issued a low mintage Enhanced Reverse Proof Silver Eagle. With a strict limit of one per customer dealers were offering large prices to get their hands multiple examples for their customers. Whitman developed a reasonable plan to restrict bourse access so there was not a repeat of the ANA situation of a few years ago. Normally this would not be anything Liberty Seated people would be interested in but these Mint offerings do have an impact on the show bourse. Thank you Whitman for handling it so well, and thank you for all your support of the club for so many years. Whitman really has been a valued partner in supporting club activities.

Baltimore club dinner. Club fellowship was enjoyed in full at our Pratt Street Ale House club dinner. Burgers, craft beers, and top notch deserts are just

a few of the delights of our new home away from home. We also appreciated the company of three ladies at the club dinner, I believe that to be a record. We look forward to being back in March for more good times at Pratt Street.



Club Meeting. The usual member group photo (see below) lead off the meeting followed by an update of club activities. Len Augsburger gave a very nice biography of Gerry Fortin's numismatic career. Unofficially, the baton has been passed. Club President Gerry Fortin gave a comprehensive review of his time as club President as well as his confidence in his replacement, Len Augsburger. Officially Gerry steps down December 31st, however there are no real duties left between now and the end of the year. With the change

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President Gerry Fortin gives farewell

of leadership it was necessary to forgo the educational portion of the meeting.

Club Table. John Frost hosted the club table and provided the display (The Many Faces of Seated Liberty). The club table was a hub of activity all throughout the show. Several members used the opportunity to pay their club dues.

The Regional Team is going back to Mount Kisco New York December 15th. John Frost and Dennis Fortier will host the club table at this fine local show. The promoter provides a room for education so John can do his stuff.

John will give the presentation titled "The Many Faces of Seated Liberty" at Mount Kisco, a new audience for this fun presentation.

Don't forget to get your ballots in for the Kam Ahwash Award, Officer Election, and By-Laws approval.

Happy Holidays and a (FUN) New Year.

PS. We learned that CAC (Certification Acceptance Corp.) is now accepting collector memberships for LSCC members that may have neglected to join when they previously had the opportunity. There may be a wait list (90 day or so) but if you missed your chance you now have a second chance! Call CAC to get on the list.

Important Announcement for LSCC Members

This Fall with a mailer included in the current *Gobrecht Journal*, LSCC members are asked to vote on and approve the updated LSCC Constitution and By-Laws.

The club officers recognize that this is important to everyone so you have a chance to read them now as they are posted on the LSCC website at: <http://www.lscweb.org/Constitution.shtml>. Once on this link, you will see this header followed by the new By-Laws:

Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Constitution and By-Laws
Draft for discussion and approval - October 2019

You may also access the draft Constitution and By-Laws by going to the menu item under "About us" called "LSCC Constitution and By-laws."



The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

A Gobrecht Medal Finds a Good Home



At the ANA convention I got to talking with Neil Musante of the Medal Collectors Association about the 1826 Archimedes medal (Julian AM-55) engraved by Christian Gobrecht for the New England Society for Promotion of Manufactures and Mechanic Arts. Neil thought it was quite rare and wished to add an example to his collection. Seeing as I had two of them, and that it would be going to a “good home,” I did the deal and the piece illustrated was sold. Later I realized that previous appearances of this medal could be located rather easily using Newman Portal, and a brief search yielded some results. First off, how many were struck? Bob Wester, writing in the NENA News (1986, no. 2) reported that 15 were awarded in 1826 and 20 in 1828. His source is unnoted but is probably the Society proceedings or minutes. After that we look at the medals themselves. Typically the awardee’s name was engraved by hand in the lower reverse, but a few of these are blank, suggesting that they were unawarded remainders or that the recipient never had

their name engraved in this space. The following awarded examples are known:

Thomas Hurd
Mrs. Edward Brooks
Samuel F. Coolidge
Francis Peabody
Benjamin Loring
Christian Gobrecht

Of the last, special mention is required. Gobrecht’s grandson, who would have known, wrote in the early 20th century that the first presentation of this award was made to Gobrecht himself, in acknowledgement of the artistry demonstrated in the execution of the dies. The whereabouts of this medal is unknown, and apart from this single mention over a hundred years ago, there is no further information. It may still reside in the family. Needless to say, the appearance of this medal would draw substantial commercial

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interest. There is also the possibility that Gobrecht's example was never engraved with his name, meaning that we would never be able to tell which of the blank pieces might have been his.

Further searching revealed 19 auction appearance between 1867 and 2005, meaning that an example appears at auction about once every seven years. A few fixed price listings were also found, most notably a pleasing toned (unawarded) piece recently sold by John Kraljevich. Finally, examples were located in the American Numismatic Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society, both unawarded. Beyond the six named pieces listed above, there are perhaps another half dozen unawarded pieces out there, suggesting a population of 12 silver pieces.

In addition, there are a few related oddball items. Woodward's sale of the Mickley collection (1867) offered plaster impressions of both the obverse



and reverse dies. These have not reappeared on the market. The Presidential Coin and Antique sale of 1/16/1987 presented a white metal example, said to be on a cast planchet. This was likely a test impression prior to striking the silver pieces. Finally, the Gobrecht catalog prepared by his grandson, c. 1900, mentioned a copper example in the stock of S.H. and H. Chapman, Philadelphia dealers. The copper piece has not been mentioned since, and is likely worth more than most of the silver examples.

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LSCC Mission

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC website: www.lscweb.org
LSCC email address: lscweb@lscweb.org

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are bargain priced at \$25 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the LSCC Publications Editor.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@earthlink.net.

Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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